

Message Text

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ACTION ST-01

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R 231038Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2124

INFO USDESPATCH AGENT NY

UNCLAS TEHRAN 5929

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASUP, ATRN, AFSP, IR

SUBJ: SHIPMENT OF SUPPLIES

REF: DESPATCH AGENT LETTER DATED 5/5/75 - SHIPMENT DAS-69245

1. WHEN EMBASSY TEHRAN FIRST LEARNED BY OBL NO 46176 DATED 4/29 OF THE SHIPMENT OF ITS DREXEL FURNITURE ORDER VIA TURKEY STRONG APPREHENSION WAS FELT IN OUR SHIPPING SECTION. PREVIOUS SHIPMENTS ROUTED TO ISKENDERUN IN TRANSIT TO IRAN HAD BEEN LONG DELAYED AND HAD RESULTED IN DAMAGES AND SHORTAGES. (OUR FILES SUBSTANTIATE THIS STATEMENT, VIZ, MARILYN MCAFEE, AMB DOUGLAS HECK, ROBERT E FERRIS, ETC) OUR DISMAY WAS SOMEWHAT DISPELLED WHEN ROGER PROVENCHER BROUGH BACK AMERICAN EXPORT LINES' MEMORANDUM ON HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SHIPMENT OBTAINED FROM AL JENKINS OPR/ST WHICH STATES TRANSIT TIME FOR HHE NEW YORK/TEHRAN VIA TURKEY WOULD BE 35 DAYS.

2. OUR APPREHENSION IS AGAIN RENEWED AND WE BELIEVE AMERICAN EXPORT LINES IS OFFERING SOMETHING ON WHICH THEY CANNOT DELIVER. AFTER PRESSURING THE LOCAL AGENTS WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE SS "RED JACKET" ARRIVED ISTANBUL ON 5/18/75 BUT DID NOT DISCHARGE OUR FORTY-FOOT CONTAINERS BECAUSE THE ISTANBUL AGENTS HAVE NEITHER TRUCKS NOR TRAILERS CAPABLE HAULING VANS THAT SIZE. LOCAL AGENT THEN INFORMED US THAT SHIPMENT WAS OFF-LOADED AT BEIRUT AND HAS BEEN RE-SHIPPED OVERLAND ON JUNE 11, ON QUOTE A TRIAL BASIS UNQUOTE. EVASIVE IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTIONS, HE ADMITTED FINALLY THAT BEIRUT AGENTS HAD NOT GIVEN HIM WHEREABOUTS OR ROUTING OF THE SHIPMENT, AND COULD NOT GIVE US THE TRUCK AND TRAILER NUMBERS NEEDED FOR CUSTOMS CLEARANCES AT BORDERS. HE DID EXPRESS PLEASURE

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OUR OFFER THAT IF SHIPMENT MIGHT BE HELD UP AT BORDER WE WOULD

ASSIST; BUT EMBASSY WOULD BE TAKING ON AND INDIRECTLY PAYING FOR A SERVICE WHICH AGENTS SHOULD PERFORM. WE DO NOT NEED MORE CUSTOMS AND SHIPPING PROBLEMS THAN WE NOW HAVE, DEPARTMENT MIGHT ADVISE AMEXPORT.

3. AMEXPORT MAY GENUINELY BELIEVE IT IS OFFERING A FAST SERVICE, BUT EMBASSY BELIEVES THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE INEFFICIENCY OF THEIR AGENTS, THE ROUGH OVERLAND HAUL BY INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT, AND BORDER DIFFICULTIES.

4. TO RECAP THIS SHIPMENT:

- A. BILL OF LADING DATED 4/29/75, PRESUMABLY WITH SHIPMENT SHORTLY THEREAFTER;
- B. ARRIVAL ISTANBUL 5/18/75;
- C. OFFLOADING AND RESHIPMENT OVERLAND (REPORTEDLY, BUT UNVERIFIED) 6/11/75.
- D. FIFTY-FOUR DAYS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE DATE OF OBL AND WE STILL HAVE NOT RECEIVED SHIPMENT.

5. RECEIPT OF AMEXPORT'S OFFER LED US TO MAKE A COST ESTIMATE COMPARING THE ROUTE BY/ISKENDERUN OR BEIRUT/TEHRAN WITH NY/PERSIAN GULF PORTS. WE HAVE ESTIMATED THE AMEXPORT COSTS AT \$50,496 FOR THIS DREXEL SHIPMENT AND A COMPARABLE, HYPOTHETICAL SHIPMENT BY/ GULF PORTS AT \$40,936. (OF THE LATTER FIGURE OCEAN FREIGHT IS ESTIMATED TO BE \$27,583; AND PLEASE TAKE NOTE THAT 65 PERCENT OF THE LATTER FIGURE IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE CONGESTION CHARGES AT GULF PORTS.)

6. THE POST UNDERSTANDS THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS ENDEAVORED TO OBTAIN SHIPMENT OF EFFECTS TO TEHRAN VIA MAC. IT IS REQUESTED THAT ANOTHER EFFORT TO OBTAIN THIS METHOD OF SHIPMENT BE MADE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

- A. OUR SURFACE SHIPMENT OF HHE IS NOW ESTIMATED TO BE \$1.26 - \$1.40 PER POUND, DEPENDING UPON SHIPPING LINE USED; WHICH WE UNDERSTAND MAY EXCEED MAC'S CARGO HHE RATE;
- B. MAC FLIGHTS ARE COMING IN FULLY LOADED BUT ARE FREQUENTLY LEAVING LIGHT;
- C. AS STATE COSTS RISE SO DO THE SAS COSTS CHARGEABLE TO ALL AGENCIES INCLUDING DEFENSE;
- D. EMBASSY CIVIL AIR ATTACHE' STATES THAT NO REPEAT NO AMERICAN UNCLASSIFIED

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AIRLINE IS PERMITTED CARGO FLIGHTS TO OR OUT OF IRAN; EXCEPT INDIVIDUALLY CHARTERED AIRCRAFT FLIGHTS, WHICH ARE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE AND ECONOMICALLY NOT FEASIBLE.

7. WOULD APPRCIATE YOUR TAKING SECOND LOOK AT MAC INCOMING AND OR OUTGOING CARGO RATES AS WELL AS AMERICAN EXPORT LINES OVERCOMMITMENT.

HELMS

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